(c) in how many cases there is no means of protection of their services; and

(d) whether Government propose to frame rules and take steps to give protection and do justice in respect of services of these workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) According to the survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) during 2004-05, the total number of workers in the unorganized sector was 43.3 crores. Out of which, about' 26.8 crore are in the agriculture sector and remaining in the non-agriculture sector.

(c) and (d) The Government has initiated several measures for the protection of the labourers in the unorganised sector. Various labour laws like the Minimum Wages Act, 1948; the Workmen Compensation Act, 1923; the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976; the Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, Contract Labour (Abolition and Prohibtion) Act, 1970, Inter-State Migrant Workmen (RECS) Act, 1979 etc. are applicable to the labourers in the unorganized sector also. The Government have set up Welfare Funds to provide social security/welfare measures to certain categories of workers *i.e.* beedi workers, certain non-coal mine workers and cine workers. The welfare measures include health care, housing, educational assistance for children, drinking water supply, etc. Further, the Janshree Bima Yojana provides life insurance protection to the rural and urban poor persons, including unorganized workers who are below and marginally above the poverty line. In addition to this, the Government is also implementing various welfare and employment oriented schemes and programmes through various Ministries/ Departments. The Government has recently enacted National Rural Employment Guarantee Act which provides 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The Government propose to enact The Unorganised Sector Workers Social Security Bill with a view to providing social security to unorganized sector workers.

Recruitment by private companies through employment exchanges

2413. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to encourage private companies to recruit through employment exchanges;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Private Sector employers/ companies are free to utilize the services of Employment Exchanges for recruitment purposes.